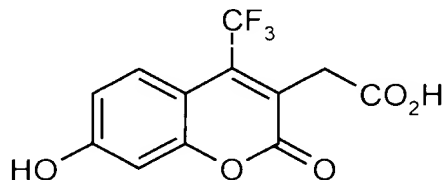


IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The assay according to claim 10 wherein inhibition of O-dealkylation of the compound of formula (I) by the enzyme is measured by quantifying the compound of formula (II):



(II)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of a compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~claim 13~~ claim 15 which comprises:

- reaction of resorcinol and a dialkyl trifluoroacetosuccinate wherein the alkyl groups are independently selected from C₁₋₂ alkyl, in the presence of polyphosphoric acid;
- reaction of the resulting 7-hydroxycoumarin with a compound of formula R¹Hal, wherein R¹ is C₁₋₂ alkyl and Hal is halogen, ~~e.g. iodine or bromine~~; and
- ester hydrolysis to give the acid of formula (I).

Claims 17-20 (Canceled without prejudice to their further prosecution in one or more continuation applications).

Claim 21. (New) A process for the production of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 15 which comprises:

- reaction of resorcinol and a dialkyl trifluoroacetosuccinate wherein the alkyl groups are independently selected from C₁₋₂ alkyl, in the presence of polyphosphoric acid;
- reaction of the resulting 7-hydroxycoumarin with a compound of formula R¹Hal, wherein R¹ is C₁₋₂ alkyl and Hal is a halogen selected from iodine or bromine; and
- ester hydrolysis to give the acid of formula (I).